



SHORELINE

OCTOBER 2003

Assessing the state of Florida's beaches

This was originally presented by Mike Sole, chief of the Bureau of Beaches and Wetland Systems, at the FSBPA Annual Meeting on Sept. 4. Go to www.fsbpa.com for a link to the full presentation.

The state:

- 829 miles of beach
- 322.3 miles of critically eroded beach
- 169.5 miles managed
- 36 miles constructed in FY 2002/2003

Northeast Florida:

- 46 miles critically eroded
- 17.3 miles managed
- 8.2 miles constructed (St. Johns project)

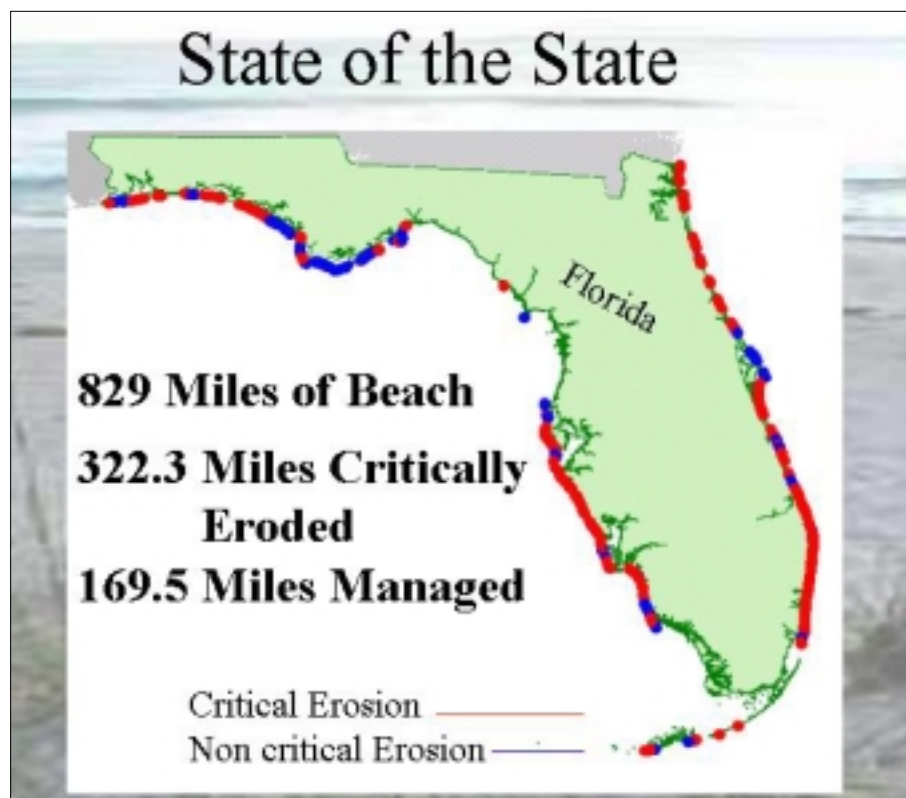
Central Florida:

- 56.2 miles critically eroded
- 32.9 miles managed
- 8 miles constructed (Indian River and Brevard projects)

Southeast Florida:

- 79 miles critically eroded
- 42.8 miles managed
- 4.3 miles constructed (MidTown and Bal Harbour projects)

The Keys:



- 7.7 miles critically eroded
- 0.6 managed

Southwest Florida:

- 91 miles critically eroded
- 49 miles managed
- 7.3 miles constructed (Anna Maria and Stump Pass projects)

The Panhandle:

- 51 miles critically eroded
- 26.9 miles managed
- 8.2 miles constructed (Pensacola Beach) ♦

FSBPA conferences: Save the dates

■ The Beach Preservation Technology Conference, Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa, Lake Buena Vista, Feb. 11-13, 2004.

■ The FSBPA Annual Meeting, South Seas Resort, Captiva, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2004. ♦



Resolutions still needed to support state funding

By **DEBBIE FLACK**,
FSBPA Director of
Governmental Affairs

We're still waiting for a federal Energy & Water Appropriations Act for 2004. Oct. 1 has come and gone, and still no Conference news. Let's hope we don't have a repeat of last year, and instead have a budget before next month.

I want to thank many of our member governments for passing formal resolutions in support of continued dedicated funding of \$30 million annually for statewide beach management, and distributing them to the Governor, appropriations leadership in the Florida Legislature, and members of their local legislative delegation.

I know many more of you have such resolutions in

progress, and plan to distribute them at upcoming locally held delegation meetings. (A sample resolution can be found on FSBPA's Web site at www.fsbpa.com).

These formal expressions of the importance of state participation in beach funding are critical given the fiscal challenges we will face during the 2004 legislative session in Tallahassee. Local delegation meetings have already begun, so it is important to ask to be placed on the agenda as soon as possible.

Yes, it's that time again! Committee meetings are scheduled to begin later this

month. Maintaining state funding at the \$30 million statutory level will be our focus. Keeping the dedicated funding source, the documentary stamp tax, will be our cause.

It will require your support, commitment and effort to convince members of the Legislature of the importance of healthy beaches to Florida's economic well-being and our quality of life. ♦

CAPITOL WATCH



Baby Isabel makes landfall

While much of the eastern seaboard of the United States got Hurricane Isabel, Florida now has its own Baby Isabel. Isabel Virginia Barker Bush was born Oct. 3 to FSBPA board member Virginia Barker. Isabel weighed in at just under seven pounds. To share your good wishes, Virginia Barker and Mark Bush's address is 2738 School Drive N.E., Palm Bay, FL 32905. ♦



SHORELINE

A monthly electronic publication of the
Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

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Study evaluates beaches' economic impact

By **LENORE ALPERT, PhD.**

A study of the economic impact of beach renourishment and beach management on Florida's economy was recently completed by Florida Atlantic University's Catanese Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, on behalf of the Bureau of Beaches and Wetland Resources of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The study found that beaches generate \$17.7 billion annually to the state's economy while in 1996 beaches created 781,000 jobs. The study concludes that anything that harms beaches harms the economy; thereby, the addition of sand, through beach renourishment,

not only benefits the direct recreational, aesthetic, and coastal protection values, but also their indirect high economic value.

The main purpose of the Catanese Center's multi-faceted study was to provide information on the importance of beach management to the state

and national economies. The dataset tracked federal, state, and local beach-related expenditures and funding sources from 1992 to 2002. The inventory encompassed Florida beach projects performed in that timeframe.

The literature review and

bibliography focused on both in- and out- of state research. The education document presented data on the impacts of

beach restoration and the status of Florida's beaches. The concept paper proposed a statewide model to address the need for a broader approach to analyzing the

economics of beaches.

For information, contact Dr. Lenore Alpert (lalpert@fau.edu), M.J. Matthews (mmatthew@fau.edu) or Roxane Dow at DEP's Office of Beaches & Coastal Systems (roxane.dow@dep.state.fl.us). ♦



Beach briefs

■ The Federal Emergency Management Agency rescinded the final flood elevation determination published for Collier County, Florida and Incorporated areas on June 2, 2003. A final flood elevation will be made at a later date.

■ The town of Jupiter is seeking state approval for a sea grape trimming program along part of its oceanfront. Environmental regulators are concerned it could harm sea turtle hatchlings, but agreed to

approve the permit with increased monitoring of its impact.

■ The Bonita Beach project was delayed about a year when DEP officials raised concerns about the slope being too steep for turtles to climb. The design was modified to include a 1,000-foot section that would provide a milder slope. Through monitoring, this section will be compared to the rest of the beach project.

• On Sept. 18, the Juno Beach Pier was closed as Hurricane Isabel passed by.

Twenty-foot swells smashed into the easternmost portion. Yellow caution flags were flying at Ocean Reef Park on Singer Island because of 10-foot swells.

■ Hurricane Isabel pushed high waves onto Martin and St. Lucie county beaches. The waves were too close together for surfers to get out past the breakers. Beach renourishment south of the inlet earlier this year did its job for the most part protecting the dune from erosion, according to St. Lucie

■ Continued on next page



BRIEFS

■ Continued from previous page

County Engineer Richard Bouchard. "It would have been a lot worse if we hadn't pumped sand on the beach."

■ Indian River County and the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District have agreed to send representatives to each other's meetings and to work toward an inter-agency agreement about where the inlet district will put sand on county beaches.

■ St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to submit a Habitat Conservation Plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that limits driving on the beach to between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. May 1 to Oct. 31. Driving is allowed 24 hours the rest of the year.

■ Damage to the reefs during dredging of the Hillsborough Inlet last year are resulting in doubling of taxes for the inlet district residents. The project was meant to create a safer boat passage to the ocean by widening and deepening the inlet. Hard corals, sea fans and sponges were damaged by cables. Because of the damage, the state has not determined how much they will reimburse, leaving the district to pay back loans taken out. ♦



Above: Chairman Monte Blews presents Barry Manson-Hing (right) with the Jim Purpura/T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award.
Above right: President Stan Tait summons conference attendees back from a break.



Scenes from the annual meeting



Above: Stan Tait presents T.Y. Chiu (left) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Left: Monte Blews presents Dr. Ashish Mehta (right) with the Bob Dean Coastal Research Award.



Right: Stan Tait (right) with State Sen. Dennis Jones (R-District 13), who handed out the Beach Statesman Award named in his honor to U.S. Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young (R-10th District) at this year's awards banquet.

